

1077-1080

1912 Dates J-BK

Scandinavia

HAROLD HEYN, was king of
Denmark. He was son of SVEIN

Jan 21, 1077

CANOSSA

Italian village - site of penance
done by Holy Roman Emperor
Henry IV standing barefoot
in the snow begging
forgiveness from Pope Gregory VII
(c 1020 - Mar 25, 1085)

1077

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Castle of CANOSSA

in north Italy: 12 mi southwest
of Reggio.

In 1077 after 3 days humiliation
Henry IV obtained absolution
from Pope Gregory VII

The Holy Roman Emperor gives in to Pope Gregory VII
Gregory VII's ban on lay investitures met opposition
in Germany. The pope had made enemies by ex-
communicating a number of Emperor Henry IV's
officers for obtaining their positions by serving or
purchase. Gregory summoned Henry to appear
before him in Rome to answer charges of mis-
conduct. Henry's reply was to convene in 1076 a
SYNOD of the German clergy, which "deposed" the
pope. The Pope excommunicated Henry and released the
subjects of the Holy Roman Empire from obedience to him.

the German princes said that they would desert him unless he obtained absolution. Henry crossed the Alps in Jan. 1077 and (according to tradition) waited 3 days in snow-covered country at Gregory's castle in CANOSSA, northern Italy, for an audience with the pope. He pleaded for forgiveness & was absolved. But Gregory had overreached himself in claiming for the Papacy (in 1075) the right to remove rulers whom it deemed unworthy. In 1080, when Henry was fighting for his throne against the rebel duke of Saxony, Gregory again excommunicated him. Henry carried the war into Italy, occupying Rome in 1084, driving Gregory into exile (where he soon died) and installing Clement VII as antipope.

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England

Rebellion of the Conqueror's
son ROBERT in Normandy

ODO, bishop of BAYEUX,
Williams brother was imprisoned
for intrigue

1077

Submission of Henry IV
to the Pope at CANOSSA

Henry IV submits and
is humiliated at Canossa.

Election of Rudolf of Swabia,
followed by German reaction
in Henry's favor

Sultanate of Roum established
at NICAEA by Selaymen,

Pope Gregory obliged Henry IV,
Emperor of Germany to stand
3 days, in the depth of winter,
barefooted at his castle gate,
to implore his pardon.

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Germany

Civil War in Germany